

# USAID/Sri Lanka - Transition Initiatives Programs

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USAID/Sri Lanka's flagship program under the Office of Transition Initiatives is the Reintegration and Stabilization Program (RISEN). This program focuses on Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern provinces. By increasing economic security, social cohesion and community resiliency, the program's goal is to help these provinces transform internally, move from relief to development, and begin to reap the benefits of the rapidly growing Sri Lankan economy.

## Unlocking Human Potential by Creating Thousands of Jobs

As the Sri Lankan economy continues to rapidly grow, one of RISEN's key goals is to help targeted beneficiaries take advantage of opportunities presented by this growth. Honing in on job creation, RISEN helped over 17,000 youth in the North register on the country's largest online jobs marketplace, and invited them to a USAID-sponsored jobs fair, drawing over 15,000 participants. Attracting 70 employers from across the country, this fair led to 3,218 job offers in one day. Job offers continue to roll in for Northern youth from major national firms. RISEN also provides job training for youth in a number of industries.



## Responding to Disaster by Working Together Across Ethnic Lines

RISEN actively seeks opportunities to build confidence between different ethnic groups. In January 2011, devastating floods displaced more than 300,000 people. RISEN immediately mobilized 60 Tamil and Muslim youth to distribute emergency supplies to 10,000 people in Batticaloa District. The youth worked together with local officials to identify vulnerable Sri Lankan families of various ethnic backgrounds, distribute the supplies and move people to safety when needed. USAID continues to encourage multi-ethnic youth activities by supporting regional youth groups.



## Meeting Critical Development Needs by Targeting Underserved Communities

RISEN identifies opportunities to support equitable access to services and resources in former conflict zones. In June 2011, RISEN supported the first post-war skills development training for the Batticaloa District Planning Secretariat, the body responsible for coordinating all government and donor-funded development activities in the region. Many employees of the Secretariat had never been trained on procurement procedures, results-based management, geographic information systems (GIS) software, or proposal writing. After receiving the USAID-sponsored training, and relevant technical equipment, Secretariat staff are now better able to coordinate various donor projects in the region of 543,000 people, and target resources toward remote, underserved communities.

